

ពុទ្ធិកសាគលវិទ្យាល័យព្រះសីហមុនីរាជា

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2025.....

Policy on Research Independence / Academic Freedom

PSBU enforces research independence primarily through structured oversight and ethical protocols outlined in its Quality Assurance Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

Key Enforcement Mechanisms

A dedicated Research Committee reviews and approves all proposals, ensuring alignment with institutional standards before projects begin. Principal Investigators lead projects under strict adherence to approved protocols, with regular progress reports and periodic audits promoting transparency in resource allocation.

Ethical and Practical Safeguards

An Ethics Review Board evaluates conduct and participant protections, while mandatory training in responsible research practices supports autonomy for students and early-career researchers. Mentorship and equitable facilities further enable independent execution, though no explicit anti-interference measures against external influences are detailed.

PSBU explicitly promotes research as part of its mission, including:

- Managing and expanding research initiatives
- Encouraging contributions to academic knowledge and societal development (centers and collaboration opportunities, Faculty mentorship for student research, Access to academic resources such as e-journals, databases)
- Research and teaching emphasize (Critical thinking and student engagement, Interactive and inquiry-based learning e.g., classroom research studies).

This indicates institutional encouragement of research activity, which is a prerequisite for research independence.

PSBU is rooted in:

- Buddhist philosophy and moral education
- Alignment with national institutions (Ministry of Cult and Religion, MoEYS)

Research is expected to align with:

- Ethical norms
- Social harmony
- Cultural/religious values

This can indirectly shape or constrain research topics.

This policy will be subject to annual review